

## St. Cloud State University theRepository at St. Cloud State

---

Curriculum Unit on the Gilded Age in the United States

American History Lesson Plans

---

1-8-2016

# The Captains of Industry

Nickolas Szymanski  
*St. Cloud State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/gilded\\_age](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/gilded_age)



Part of the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Szymanski, Nickolas, "The Captains of Industry" (2016). *Curriculum Unit on the Gilded Age in the United States*. 22.  
[https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/gilded\\_age/22](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/gilded_age/22)

This lesson is brought to you for free and open access by the American History Lesson Plans at theRepository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Curriculum Unit on the Gilded Age in the United States by an authorized administrator of theRepository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact [rswexelbaum@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:rswexelbaum@stcloudstate.edu).

**Title:** “The Captains of Industry”

**Authors:** Nickolas Szymanski

**Grade Levels:** 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Time:** One 50 minute class period

**Focus Statement:** As we begin to explore the Gilded Age (1870-1900), that era in American History sandwiched between the Civil War/Reconstruction and the Progressive Era to the Great War, students will grasp how the Captains of Industry had a huge part to play in the Chaos of the late 1800s. Students will not only explore who they were and why they were important but to explain why they rose to such great power and how the government had to regulate them. This lesson will cover the three main Captains of Industry Andrew Carnegie, John Rockefeller, and JP Morgan. I will go in depth about how these men lived and how they were so influential in this time period. In the end Students will decide whether these men were Captains of Industry or if they were Robber Barron’s.

**MN Standard:** MN Standard Benchmark 9.4.4.20.1 Explain how technological innovation, heavy industrialization, and intensified boom-bust cycles of an unregulated capitalist economy led to changes in the nature of work, economic scale and productivity, the advent of the modern corporation, and the rise of national labor unions. (Development of an Industrial United States: 1870—1920)

**Learning Objective(s):** (Both Content and Skill)

- Students will identify who the three Captains of Industry were and how they came to power.
- Students will read documents regarding a Captain of Industry they will comprehend details regarding each one by completing a worksheet on the reading.
- Students will decide for themselves if these men should be known as Captains of Industry or Robber Barons.

**Resources:**

- 3 documents, 1 about each of the Captains of Industry Andrew Carnegie, John Rockefeller, and JP Morgan.
- Worksheet to go along with each document.
- Power point
- Document regarding Andrew Carnegie’s donations to public Libraries.

**Methods/Procedures** (

**Beginning (5 minutes):**

- This lesson will begin with a 5 minute lecture on the Captains of industry this will give the students back ground knowledge on each of the Captains of Industry, and what we covered last time in class.

**Middle: Instructional Strategies / Learning Activities (25 minutes):**

- This section will start with the class being split into 3 groups; each group will start with a document on one of the Captains of Industry.

- Each group will read their starting document for 5 minutes then rotate to the next article this will continue for 15 minutes when all groups have read all three articles.
- Each group will fill out a worksheet that goes along with all 3 documents, approximately 5 questions on each person.
- We will then come together as a class and going around the room we will go over the answers to all of the questions on the worksheet and discuss the articles.

**End / Summary (20 minutes):**

- I will then continue with the power point outlining problems that these men ran into
- Students will watch a 12 minute video on the Homestead strike of 1892
- I will finish by telling students of the good each of these men had on society
- Lastly students will write 3 to 4 sentences on whether they think these men should be known as Captains of Industry or Robber Barons. This will be turned in the next day.